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SPECIAL HANDLING

TS-189801

17 July 1963

DOD/CIA-NASA AGREEMENT

ON

NASA RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS

1. This reconnaissance programs agreement formalizes arrangements between NASA and DOD/CIA, the latter being identified throughout this paper by their joint operational unit, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and recognizes that NASA has a requirement to perform both unmanned and manned lunar reconnaissance operations, and will in some cases be required to test equipments in earth orbit prior to engaging on lunar operations; while ~~DATA~~ NRO, by virtue of ~~NRO~~ its capabilities in on-going reconnaissance satellite programs, has developed the necessary technology, contractor resources, and management skills to produce satisfactory equipments, and appropriate security methods to preserve these capabilities, which are currently covert and highly sensitive. The arrangement will properly match NASA requirements with ~~NRO/NRO~~ capabilities to perform lunar reconnaissance.

2. To carry out these arrangements, the following procedure will normally be employed:

After reviewing NASA stated requirements in the light of ~~NRO/NRO~~ experience in reconnaissance technology and operations, (verifying that

NRO&NASA REVIEW(S)  
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NRO developed technology is applicable.) and agreeing to a set of specifications for the reconnaissance equipments. It will be the responsibility of the NRO to select a contractor, generally from among those engaged in the present covert reconnaissance programs, to develop equipments meeting these specifications in a secure and protected, or "black", fashion. Concurrently, NASA will grant the same contractor an overt or "white" reconnaissance contract which will serve as a technically plausible cover for the development of the flight hardware actually to be employed, during that length of time in which the flight hardware must be regarded as highly sensitive because of its relevance to the on-going covert reconnaissance operations. In general, the "white" contract will be managed in such a fashion as to provide adequate detailed information to the NASA and contractor personnel who have no special access to the sensitive payloads, to permit them to participate in design of circuitry, telemetry, interface arrangements, etc., and provide adequate weight, mass balance, space, power, thermal balance, and other environmental provisions in the vehicle carrying the reconnaissance equipments, and to maintain normal systems engineering cognizance. This vehicle will generally be provided by NASA. The actual management of the contract will be performed by a two-man team, including one man from NASA, who will be cleared for the sensitive aspects of the payloads

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and who will perform liaison and management guidance for the "white" program, including vehicle responsibilities, and another member from the NRO, who will manage the development of the actual flight payload (satisfying stated specifications) in accordance with security arrangements and management practices currently employed in the reconnaissance satellite program. This arrangement is to provide all essential information to the appropriate members of NASA and the contractor organizations involved in the development of the flight vehicle and reconnaissance hardware.

3. In the event that it may prove desirable for NASA to employ ~~NRO~~ NRO developed vehicles (or spacecraft) for certain of these lunar reconnaissance operations, the above agreement will remain as stated except that the management of the vehicle (or spacecraft) related portion of the program may then become the responsibility of the NRO/~~NRO~~ representative, rather than that of the NASA representative.

4. In order to further the development of agreed-on flight hardware, under the arrangements described above, the NASA will transfer or otherwise make available sufficient funds to the NRO/~~NRO~~ to cover the "black" portion of the program, in addition to the normal funding required in-house for the "white" program; and, if ~~NRO~~ NRO vehicles (or spacecraft) are involved, will also transfer sufficient funds to the NRO/~~NRO~~ to provide

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for the vehicles (or spacecraft) and all the necessary systems and interface engineering required for successful operation.

5. The dual management team will, among other things, define in each particular program the detailed division of responsibilities for such matters as reliability, quality control, systems engineering, cost accountability, operations, etc., in general agreement with the previous provisions.

6. The conduct of operations with these equipments will normally be primarily the responsibility of NASA, in accordance with NRO security practices jointly agreed to, including those relating to equipment handling, checkout, etc. / ~~Label/protect/protectant/and/protectant/~~  
~~protectant/~~ Special arrangements will be worked out for the handling of product processing and dissemination within the NRO security practices.

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